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August 27, 1952

Mr. Nitze:

I believe it would be unwise for us to "encourage the termination of Czechoslovakia's diplomatic representation in the Latin American area" and to "encourage termination of diplomatic representation of the USSR and other satellites in the area" as suggested by our missions in Moscow and Praha, according to the accompanying despatch from the first named post. The following arguments seem pertinent:

1) The United States maintains diplomatic relations with the USSR and most of the satellites, and until we sever those relations any attempt to induce the Latin American States to break off their relations with them would have obvious and unwelcome implications of tutelage.

2) The Latin Americans are highly intolerant of arrogant treatment or outside political meddling and may be counted on to react promptly and positively to such treatment or interference--as has been shown by Brazil, Chile, Cuba, and Venezuela. The severance of relations under provocation must be much more harmful to Soviet and satellite prestige than similar action taken at our behest.

3) While Communist propaganda and instructions from Moscow may reach Latin America in Soviet and satellite diplomatic pouches, it is probable that the really effective guidance received by Communist groups in Latin America is obtained from leaders (such as Lombardo Toledano) who travel freely to and from Europe.

Attachment:

Despatch 70
from Moscow.

S/P:WT:gm

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Walter Thurston
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